Study of Toronto-based Munk Centre

585. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of his Ministry that as per the Toronto-based Munk Centre for International Studies, at least, 1300 computers are being used by China for espionage on other countries, including India; and

(b) if so, what measures Government is taking to protect country from such onslaughts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has taken several remedial measures to protect country from such onslaughts, these are:

(i) CERT-In has published several Security Guidelines for safeguarding computer systems from cyber attackers and these have been widely circulated. All Government Departments/Ministries, their subordinate offices and public sector undertakings have been advised to implement these guidelines to protect their computer systems.

(ii) CERT-In issues security alerts, advisories to prevent occurrence of cyber incidents and also conducts security workshops and training programs on regular basis to enhance user awareness.

(iii) The organizations operating critical information infrastructure have been advised to implement information security management practices based on International Standard ISO 27001.

(iv) The Information Technology Act, 2000 provides legal framework to address the issues connected with hacking computers and information technology infrastructure.

Submarine Cable Landing Station in West Bengal

586. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question No. 1034 given in the Rajya Sabha on 29th November, 2007 and state:

(a) the present status of the Submarine Cable Landing Station project in Digha, West Bengal; and

(b) the expected date of completion of the above project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) The Techno Commercial Evaluation of the bids for this project has been completed and it has been decided to open the financial bids on 8th July, 2009.

(b) The expected date of completion of the project is approximately 30 months from the award of contract and its acceptance.

Discrimination between rural and urban postmen

587. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that due to lack of interest, postal services in the country are badly affected;

(b) whether the Postmen are not getting the normal facilities like pension, gratuity etc. particularly in rural areas;

(c) if so, why does Government discriminate between rural and urban postmen; and

(d) if so, the details thereof including details of such problems existing in the State of Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Postmen in rural areas are getting normal facilities like pension, Gratuity etc. However, Gramin Dak Sevak Mail deliverers are engaged in rural areas for part time from 3 to 5 hours a day where the deployment of departmental postmen is not justified. They are governed by separate set of rules.

(c) and (d) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Mobile Phones

588. SHRI MAHMOOD A MADANI:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of mobile phones in the country;

(b) the expected growth rate every year during the next ten years; and

(c) the plan of Government to stop use of illegal mobile phones being imported from different countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) The total number of mobile telephone connections in the country, as on 31st May 2009 are 415.25 million.

(b) At present, on an average 10-11 million mobile phones are being added every month. The growth of mobile telephones was 50.05 % during the year 2008-09. This trend is expected to continue for next few years.

(c) To stop use pf illegal mobile phones being imported from different countries, Government has prohibited the import of "Mobile Handsets " (Classified under EXIM Code 8517) without